crops, which do not only use less water, but also helps in maintaining the soil health, which is deteriorating by continuous growing of sugarcane and paddy crops. However, keeping in view the fact that sugarcane is a commercial crop and any diversion may affect the sugar mills and the farming community, it would be advisable to substitute paddy crop with pulse crops wherever it is feasible.

Discouraging Tobbaco Cultivation

4666. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of health hazards, Government propose to discourage tobacco cultivation and suggest growing alternate crops to reduce tobacco cultivation and help the farmers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government does not have any scheme for promoting cultivation of tobacco crop in the country, and the farmers are being advised by Indian Council of Agricultural Research system the alternative crops which can be grown.

Harassment of Allottees of Mother Dairy's (F&V) Plant, Mangolpuri

4667. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mother Dairy's (F&V) booths in the national capital are receiving less and poor quality vegetables and fruits from its plant located at Mangolpuri, New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the allottees of booths are tortured and harassed when verbal or written complaints/protests are made to the plant about supply of less quantity and poor quality of vegetables and fruits and;

(c) if so, the factual position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Sorted/ graded fruits and vegetables as per the laid down quality specifications are supplied to Fruits and Vegetables booths by the Plant at Mangolpuri, New Delhi.

(b) No Sir. The concessionaries of booths are neither tortured nor harassed for any kind of complaint made by them. Any complaint received is investigated and action taken based on facts.

(c) As per the agreement entered into with the both concessionaries, they are free to check the quantity and quality at the time of taking delivery of fruit and vegetable items from the transporter and as per the system followed, they can refuse to take delivery of any item if the quantity if short or quality is bad.

Grain output

4668. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether grain output recorded a 211 mt. tonnes during 2001-2002;

(b) if so, whether coarse cereals too have gone up impressively in production, alongside staple grain, rice and wheat;

(c) whether the Union Government have made sufficient provision for storing the same;

(d) if so, what is the storing capacity at present; and

(e) what steps have been taken to see that all the domestic production is fully kept in these godowns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of rice, wheat, coarse cereals and total